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Communications

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# PRESS RELEASE

## City of Winter Park coronavirus disease UPDATE #5

**WINTER PARK, FL, an internationally recognized, award winning city with multiple accredited agencies (April 1, 2020)** The City of Winter Park continues to monitor the status of coronavirus (COVID-19) and is working diligently to protect our community.

### STATE OF FLORIDA STAY AT HOME ORDER

- On Wednesday, April 1, Governor Ron DeSantis announced a statewide 30-day stay-at-home [Executive Order #20-91](#), set to begin Friday, April 3, at 12:01 a.m.
- Individuals are asked to stay at home and leave only for “essential services” such as buying groceries, obtaining healthcare, getting gas or using the bank.
- Specific recreational activities and caring for loved ones or friends are identified as “essential activities” in this order.
- The Winter Park Police Department is aware of this order and encourages all citizens to comply as directed. In addition, the Orange County curfew remains in effect between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. daily.

### CITY HALL AND FACILITIES CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

- City Hall and city facilities remain closed to the public until further notice. Essential city services and assistance remain available via phone or email.
- The Public Safety Facility at 500 N. Virginia Ave., Fire Stations 62 on Lakemont Avenue and Station 64 on Howell Branch Road, are closed to visitors except for emergencies.
- Recreation closures include:
  - Community Center, Cady Way Pool, Showalter Stadium, public boat ramps at Dinky Dock and Lake Baldwin, golf course, tennis center, and all city playgrounds and park amenities as per the Stay at Home Order.
- Winter Park Farmers’ Market, held each Saturday, is suspended until further notice.

### RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Specific recreational activities are recognized “essential activities.”
- Beginning Monday, April 6, Parks & Recreation is launching a variety of ways to stay healthy & active during the COVID-19 crisis. You can follow the department on their [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) playlist for details of how you & your immediate family members can:
  - Enjoy online exercise classes and wellness activities on Monday’s and Friday’s.
  - Enter the Family Fun Coloring Contest to celebrate Easter.
  - Check where Honey Bunny is daily.
  - Enter the #SlowTheSpread Contest where you make a 20 second video on how you are slowing the spread from home.
  - Enjoy a Central Park Walking Tour created by the Urban Forestry team highlighting our urban canopy and experience a digital inventory of the trees in our city.

- Other recreational activities you can do while still practicing social distancing:
  - Throw a ball or Frisbee at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park or Ward Park.
  - Take a walk at Central Park, Kraft Azalea Park, and other open city green space.
  - Hike or bike on one of our [city trails](#).
  - Do some [bird watching](#) at Mead Botanical Garden.
  - Enjoy one of our many neighborhood [mini parks](#).
  - Be social with us by taking a selfie, tagging [@ParksAndRecWP](#) & sharing your experience.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITIES & SERVICES**

- Winter Park Fire-Rescue Department is operating normally providing fire and EMS services.
- Winter Park Police Department is operating normally with modified nonemergency responses. For more information, call [407-644-1313](#).

## **MEETINGS, EVENTS & GATHERINGS**

- There is a virtual City Commission meeting scheduled for Monday, April 13, at 3:30 p.m. using Communications Media Technology (CMT). To learn how to register and participate, please visit [cityofwinterpark.org/cclive](#).
- City advisory board meetings are cancelled until further notice.
- City events/gatherings have been cancelled/postponed until further notice.
  - Access the city's [calendar of events](#) for specific event cancellations or postponements.
- All recreational programming and events for youth, adults and seniors are cancelled.

## **UTILITY CUSTOMERS**

- Although utility statements and due dates will remain on schedule, we do understand that some customers may experience difficult financial situations during the pandemic. Therefore, we are suspending our disconnection for nonpayment policy until further notice.
- Customer service hours are currently 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For utility billing questions please call [407-599-3220](#). For power outage/service issues, please call [877-811-8700](#). Due to the necessity for rotating shifts, you may experience a longer wait-time during your call.

## **BUSINESS COMMUNITY**

- If you are a resident or a business in need of assistance, the City of Winter Park, Orange County and Winter Park Chamber of Commerce are offering a number of resources to assist you, depending on your need. Please visit the "NEED ASSISTANCE?" section on the city's [Emergency Incidents](#) page located at [cityofwinterpark.org/emergency](#) to find out more.
- Governor Ron DeSantis' [Executive Order #20-71](#) related to restaurants, alcoholic sales, gyms and fitness centers remains in effect.
- Orange County Mayor Demings also ordered all non-essential retail and commercial businesses to close.
- Although City Hall is closed to the public, Building & Permitting Services will be reviewing plan submittals and issuing permits electronically via [permits@cityofwinterpark.org](#). Inspections will continue on a case-by-case basis. You can schedule inspections online at [Epay](#) or call [407-599-3350](#).
- Grease trap inspections have been suspended until further notice.

Information regarding COVID-19 changes daily. Please use reliable sources to stay informed:

- [cdc.gov/COVID19](#)
- [cityofwinterpark.org](#)
- [facebook.com/WinterParkEmergencyInfo](#)
- [twitter.com/winterparkfla](#)
- [OUTREACH](#) – sign up for the city's emergency notification system
- [nextdoor.com](#) – sign up for your neighborhood information

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